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Unitarian Society Collection

2003.013

Processed by William F. Carroll, CA
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Collection Information

Abstract : The Unitarian Congregational Society of Lincoln separated from the Orthodox church in Lincoln in 1841, and established a second parish, with church building at the center of Lincoln. Discussions relating to a rejoining of the Unitarian and Congregational churches began in the 1920s, and the two churches formally merged in 1942 as First Parish in Lincoln.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository

Preferred Citation : Archives/Special Collections of the Lincoln Public Library, Lincoln, Massachusetts.

Provenance : First Parish in Lincoln.

MARC Access: Collection is catalogued in MARC under the following subject headings (lcsb, aat, gmgpc, etc.)

First Parish in Lincoln (Lincoln, Mass.)
Unitarian Congregational Society in Lincoln (Lincoln, Mass.)
First Church in Lincoln (Congregational) (Lincoln, Mass.)
Church schools -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln.
Congregational church -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln.
Unitarian church -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln.
Church anniversaries -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln.
Pews and pew rights.
Lincoln (Mass.) -- History.
Lincoln (Mass.) -- Church history.
Lincoln (Mass.) -- Religious life and customs.
Church records and registers -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln. lcsb
Sermons. aat
Clergy. aat

Historical/Biographical Notes

The First Parish in Lincoln was established 1747 in the Second Precinct of Concord, Lexington, and Weston, some seven years prior to Lincoln's incorporation as a Town. The church followed the Orthodox traditions established by Massachusetts law. During the tumultuous times in Massachusetts church history during the late 18th and early 19 centuries, the First Parish split into two factions - those favoring the traditional Orthodox interpretation (later Congregationalists) and those favoring a more liberal aspect of theology (later Unitarians.) The Unitarian party separated from First Parish in 1841, some eight years after disestablishment of the Orthodox church. Discussions to consider the merger of the two Lincoln churches began in the 1920s after the century old theological differences had become blurred, and were expedited during the tenure of the Rev. Charles Styron, who was called in 1936 as minister to both the Congregational and the Unitarian church. In 1942 the two churches were formally federated as the First Parish in Lincoln.

Scope and Content

The collection comprises church registers and ledgers of church organizations, treasurer's accounts, minutes, etc. Also included are clippings, correspondence, sermons, order of service, records relating to 1937 repair of the church, and other documents. Also included is a ledger containing minutes of the Joint Committee of the First Church in Lincoln, Congregational, and the Unitarian Congregational Society in Lincoln, 1935-1942.

The collection is arranged topically and by format.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Administrative Documents. (1 item)

Series 2: Financial Records. (2 items)

Series 3: Correspondence. (3 items)

Series 4: Clippings. (4 items)

Series 5: Sermons. (2 items)

Series 6: Order of Service. (3 items)

Series 7: Church Building. (7 items)

Series 8: Ledgers. (10 items)

Unitarian Society Collection
2003.013
Series 1, Administrative Documents

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2003.013.1.1 .1a	Bond of Fellowship and By-Laws / adopted February 26, 1926. (3 p.) aqp

Unitarian Society Collection
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Series 2, Financial Records

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	2	2003.013.2.1	Women's Alliance Treasurer's Accounts, 1908-1923 : ledger, 89 p. (Ink bleeding in part)
1	3	2003.013.2.2	Repair Expense Account , May 1937, for expenses of church building repair : manuscript.

Unitarian Society Collection
2003.013
Series 3, Correspondence

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	4	2003.013.3.1	Letter to Dana Greeley, Cambridge, from Lindol French, Chairman of Standing Committee, offering contract as minister : typescript / April 4, 1932.
1	4	2003.013.3.2	Letter to Rev. Bradford Gale, Lincoln, from James DeNormandie, Standing Committee of the Federated Churches, offering contract and continuation of federation : typescript / April 19, 1935.
1	4	2003.013.3.3	Letter to Committee-in-Charge, First Church in Lincoln and Unitarian Congregational Society, from Bradford E. Gale, tendering resignation : typescript / May 28, 1935.

Unitarian Society Collection
2003.013
Series 4, Clippings

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	5	2003.013.4.1 .1a	Re-dedication, a sermon by Rev. L. T. Pennington / Waltham News-Tribune, September 3, 1926. aqp
1	5	2003.013.4.2 .2a	Unitarian Parish accepts the resignation of Mr. Pennington / S.I., s.n., nd. aqp
1	6	2003.013.4.3 .3a	Unitarian Congregational Society, clipping relating to rededication / S.I., s.n., ca. 1926. aqp
1	6	2003.013.4.4 .4a	Part of an article continued from page 16, relating to shared characteristics of the Congregational and Unitarian parishes, apparently as part of a letter of resignation / Waltham News-Tribune, June 22, 1928. aqp

Unitarian Society Collection
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Series 5, Sermons

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	7	2003.013.5.1a-c	Sermon preached by Dr. Charles E. Park (excerpt) relating to Dr. James DeNormandie of Lincoln : typescript / June 6, 1937. (3 copies)
1	7	2003.013.5.2a-b	A free church in the Lincoln community, sermon preached by Leslie S. Pennington : typescript on onionskin / nd. (2 copies)

Unitarian Society Collection
2003.013
Series 6, Order of Service

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	8	2003.013.6.1a-c	Order of Service and Bond of Fellowship, 1926. (3 copies)
1	8	2003.013.6.2	Calendar for May 1935.
1	8	2003.013.6.3	Calendar for June 1935.

Unitarian Society Collection
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Series 7, Church Building

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	9	2003.013.7.1	Inscription on tablet, memorial to James DeNormandie, D.D..
1	9	2003.013.7.2	Lists of expenses, nd.
1	9	2003.013.7.3	Letter to Unitarian Church, Lincoln, from Bonnar Atwood, Newtonville, with estimates for cushions / May 7, 1937.
1	9	2003.013.7.4	Letter to Dr. Robert DeNormandie from Harland B. Newton, Unitarian Congregational Society in Lincoln, relating to restoration in memory of James DeNormandie / April 22, 1937.
1	9	2003.013.7.5	Excerpt from Park's sermon at dedication of restored church / June 6, 1937.
1	9	2003.013.7.6	Statement to Mrs. Robert DeNormandie from William B. Savage Co., Boston, for curtains for Unitarian Church / June 8, 1937.
1	9	2003.013.7.7	Letter to Mrs. Robert DeNormandie from William B. Savage Co., Boston, with estimates for curtains / May 3, 1937.

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Series 8, Ledgers

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	10	2003.013.8.1	Junior Young People's Religious Union records, with minutes, inserts of financial records : notebook, not paginated / 1932-1936.
1	11	2003.013.8.2	Sunday diary, with weather, attendance, music, remarks, etc. : notebook, not paginated / 1920-1936.
BV		2003.013.8.3	Records of the Church in the Unitarian Congregational Society in Lincoln, with organizational records, covenant, by-laws, members, baptisms, mostly blank pages : ledger, not paginated / November 6, 1842 with scattered entries to August 1886.
BV		2003.013.8.4	The Unitarian Congregational Society, Book 1; formation, membership, minutes of church meetings : ledger, not paginated / 1841-1901.
BV		2003.013.8.5	The Unitarian Congregational Society of Lincoln, Book 2; minutes of meetings : ledger, 153 p. / 1902-1932.
BV		2003.013.8.6	The Unitarian Congregational Society in Lincoln, Records; including by-laws, minutes, etc. : ledger, 136 p. with inserts / 1932-1941.
BV		2003.013.8.7	Records of Lincoln Branch of the National Alliance of Unitarian and Liberal Christian Women, with by-laws, minutes, annual reports : ledger, 214 p. / 1909-1916.
BV		2003.013.8.8	Records of Lincoln Branch of the National Alliance of Unitarian and Liberal Christian Women, with minutes : ledger, 152 p. / 1908-1925.

Series 8, continued

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| BV | 2003.013.8.9 | Unitarian Congregational Society Treasurer's Records : ledger, not paginated / 1843-1942. |
| BV | 2003.013.8.10 | The Minutes of the Joint Committee of the First Church in Lincoln, Congregational, and the Unitarian Congregational Society in Lincoln : ledger, 285 p. / 1935-1942. |